

**Profile of
Chia Youyee Vang
Associate Professor, History, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
2016 Regents’ Diversity Award Individual Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Initiated and developed an innovative, interdisciplinary Hmong Diaspora certificate program that provides opportunities for students to learn about Hmong cultural history, language and heritage; about 600 Hmong American students enrolled at UW-Milwaukee in 2015, a significant increase during Dr. Vang’s 10-year tenure at UW-Milwaukee.
- As part of the Hmong Diaspora certificate program effort, assisted other faculty members to incorporate Hmong-related materials into their courses.
- Mentors Southeast Asian American students through rigorous undergraduate research projects, and has broadened the worldview of UW-Milwaukee students through study abroad Winterim experiences in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Co-advisor to the Hmong Student Association.
- Has served on community boards, spoken at many events across the Milwaukee area, and offers her expertise to the state’s growing Hmong community.
- Has increased collaboration and meaningful partnerships with community organizations such as the Hmong American Peace Academy and the Hmong Arts preservation initiative through a Community University Partnership (CUP) grant.
- A previous recipient of a UW System Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award.
- Earned the recognition of Wisconsin Women Making History in 2015, sponsored in part by Wisconsin Public Television.

In Chia Youyee Vang’s own words:

- “I am a firm believer that making options and opportunities available to students is a requirement for their future success.”

In the words of colleagues:

- “As a first-generation college student, one of a few Hmong PhDs in Wisconsin, and the only Hmong tenured professor at UW-Milwaukee, Dr. Vang had the vision and worked relentlessly to develop and initiate the interdisciplinary Certificate Program in Hmong Diaspora Studies....She is an advocate and institutional change maker who promotes forward movement to address social justice issues on campus and in the communities.” —*Karen Miyoshi, Executive Assistant to the Dean, College of Health Sciences, and Linda Huang, Administrative Program Manager III, Division of Global Inclusion and Engagement, UW-Milwaukee*
- “UW-Milwaukee, as a campus, takes great pride in its access mission – to provide students from diverse backgrounds with access to a college curriculum of the highest standards. I am pleased to say that Professor Vang and her work at UWM and in southeast Wisconsin are critical to this mission. She provides a voice and a point of contact for students and the community.” —*Rodney Swain, Dean, College of Letters and Science, UW-Milwaukee*